# THE JOURNAL OF MODOK STUDIES

*Volume One, Number Three*

# *The Journal of MODOK Studies*
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## Table of Contents

**Introduction**.....45

**Teen MODOK** by K. Thor Jensen.....46

**Meet Ms. MODOK**.....51

**The Morning After** by Klon Waldrip.....62

**MODOK In Japan** by D.R."Lefty Vacationland" Merrill.....63

**MODOK Vs. Steely Dan** by Patrick Dean.....68

AND SEEING HER TRANSFORMED MODOK COMES TO A SIMILAR CONCLUSION:
YOU--YOUR MIND--IS BEAUTIFUL!
I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER MIND SIMILAR TO MY OWN!

The Journal of MODOK Studies, Volume One Number Three is published by Second Period Industries, Post Office Box 948, Athens, Georgia 30603. All unaccredited editorial content is by the Editor, George M. Tarleton. MODOK is owned by Marvel Comics and probably always will be, even if the Editor-in-Chief thinks he's totally someone else (see Volume One, Number Two for details). MODOK was created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby (with embellishment by Joe Sinnott) and first appeared in Tales of Suspense # 94, dated October 1967. MODOK stands for "Mental Organism Designed Only for Killing", which is totally awesome. I am assuming that Ms. MODOK stands for "Ms. Mental Organism Designed Only for Killing". You will have to wait a while to find out what MODAM stands for. This journal is published solely to promote the greatness of MODOK, and we're pretty sure that whole "fair use" thing covers everything printed in here. All work printed herein that was not generated by someone working for Marvel Comics is used by permission of the artist. Patrick Dean is the only cartoonist to appear in every issue of the *Journal of MODOK Studies* so far. Maybe that will be the answer to a Trivial Pursuit question one day. My wife thinks getting a tattoo of MODOK would be a really bad idea. Copies of this book are two dollars (American) postage paid from the address above. There are probably a lot of typos in here, though I hope there are less than last issue. If you are reading this, you're the greatest person ever.

# Ms. MODOK isn't the same thing as MODAM

## It is very important that you remember this

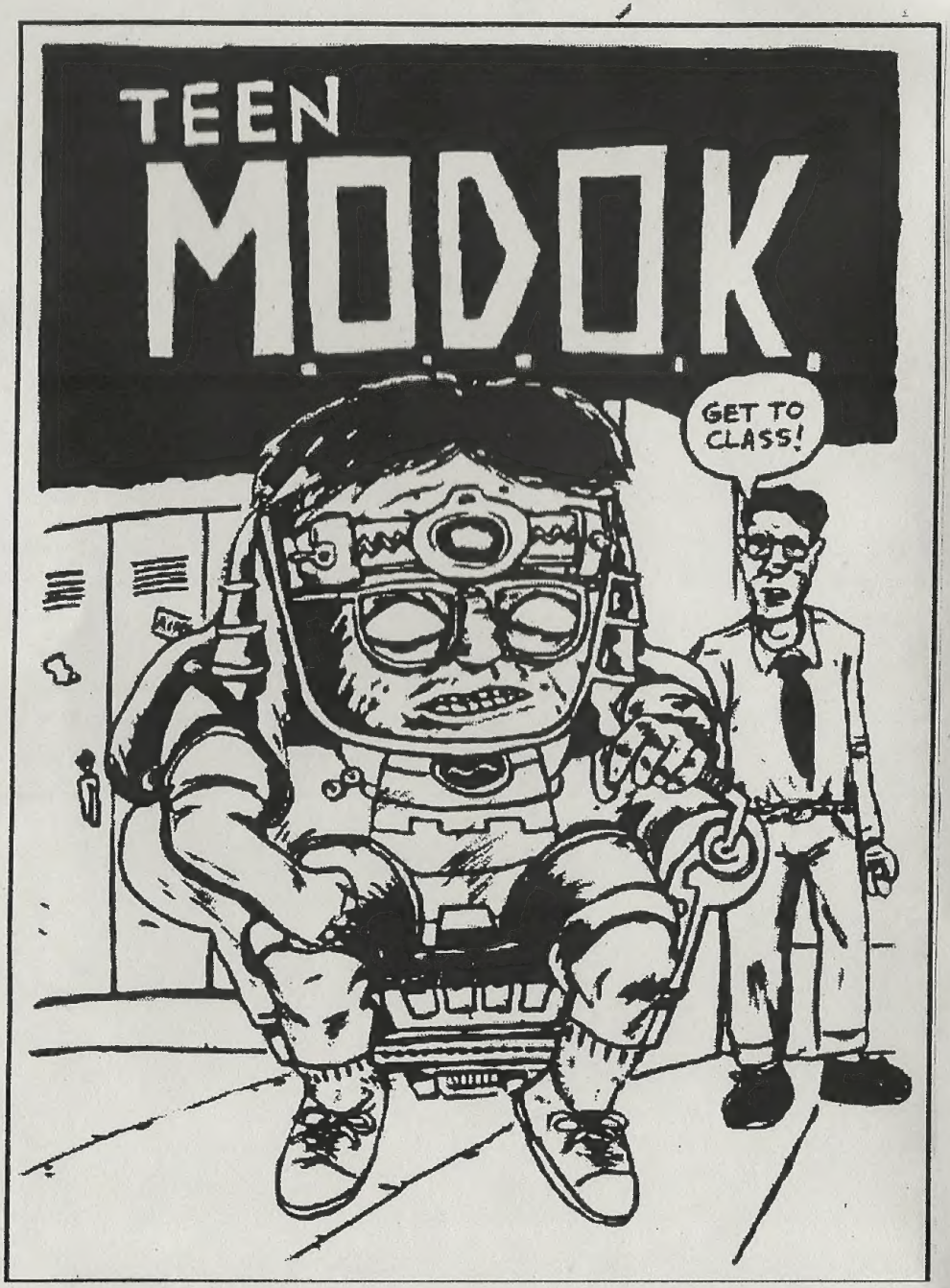
Welcome to the third issue of *The Journal of MODOK Studies*. If I know my readership well, I know that there is nothing they like more than reading apologies for the new issue of a fanzine being terribly late. Well, here you go: I am sorry. By my calculations, this issue should have seen print sometime in 1986. Still, I hope you think it was worth the wait, and I'm sure you found ways to keep yourself occupied while you were waiting.

The most common comment I heard when I told people I was focusing on Ms. MODOK in this issue was "Oh, you mean MODAM..." *No, I do **not** mean MODAM.* If I wanted to say MODAM, I would have said MODAM. Don't worry, though. We'll get around to her soon enough. Which brings me to something very important. Issues of comics featuring MODAM are most commonly found in quarter bins. Quarter bins are commonly not organized in any way. I am very lazy. Any eagle-eyed readers who send me MODAM appearances (whether I already have them or not) will receive a special secret prize! There's something for you to be excited about!

Remember that someone, somewhere is working on the Iron Man motion picture script. Make sure you write, call, and e-mail everyone you know in the entertainment industry to demand that MODOK appear on screen. This is a chance for the voice of the MODOK nation to be heard! Did you know that there was a MODOK nation? Neither did I. I just made it up. Still, it's something important that you should do. Calling Marvel comics a couple of times every hour couldn't hurt, either. If I knew their number, I'd print it, but I'm pretty sure they're in the phone book.

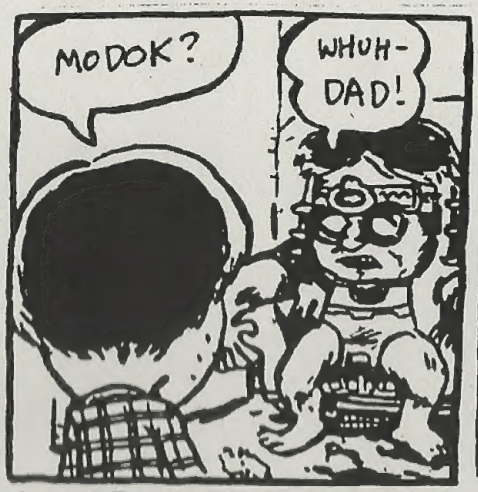
Thanks for reading *The Journal of MODOK Studies*. Write us letters; send us comics, pictures, and drawings of all things MODOK-related. MODOK is supreme!

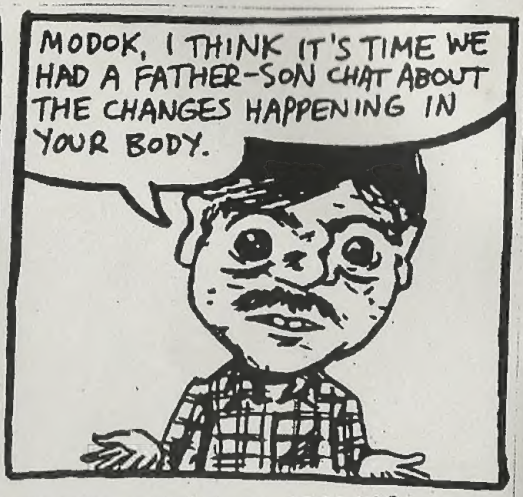
Second Period Industries,
*The Journal Of MODOK Studies*,
And
K. Thor Jensen Present:



OOH, MODOK! IT'S SO HOT ON THIS BEACH...
I THINK I'LL JUST TAKE MY TOP OFF!
BZZZT
SPKKK
OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!
NO MORE WATCHING CINEMAX BEFORE BED...

MODOK FACT: MODOK GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH A 3.8 GPA AND WAS ON THE DEAN'S LIST.




YOU SEE, WHEN AN ORGANISM DESIGNED ONLY FOR KILLING GETS TO A CERTAIN AGE, HORMONES IN YOUR GIANT BRAIN MAKE YOUR BODY CHANGE - YOU START TO GROW HAIR IN STRANGE PLACES AND NEW FEELINGS, SEXUAL FEELINGS, START TO TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE.

MODOK FACT: MODOK FIRST APPEARED IN "TALES OF SUSPENSE" #94 BUT HAD A LETTER PRINTED IN THE LETTER COLUMN FOUR ISSUES PREVIOUS TO THAT.

MODOK FACT: MODOK ENJOYS THE "FORGOTTEN REALMS" SERIES OF FANTASY NOVELS. HE CAN READ A NEW ONE EVERY EIGHT SECONDS!

EW!
OH MY GOD- DEBBIE POUTINE- THE HOTTEST GIRL IN SCHOOL.
OH, THE THINGS I WOULD DO TO
NO! NO SEX THOUGHT!
ER...
GOTTA CONTROL- SUBLIMATE SUBLIMATE THAT SEX ENERGY... SUBLIMATE
CHECK IT OUT - THE LITTLE FREAK'S GETTIN' A BONER!
FUCK YOU, CAPTAIN TEEN AMERICA!
THIS- THIS FEELS GOOD!
BHLZOW!
THE BEGINNING!

MODOK FACT: MODOK CAN USE HIS MENTAL POWERS FOR GOOD AS WELL AS EVIL. HE SIMPLY CHOOSES NOT TO.

# Meet Ms. MODOK!

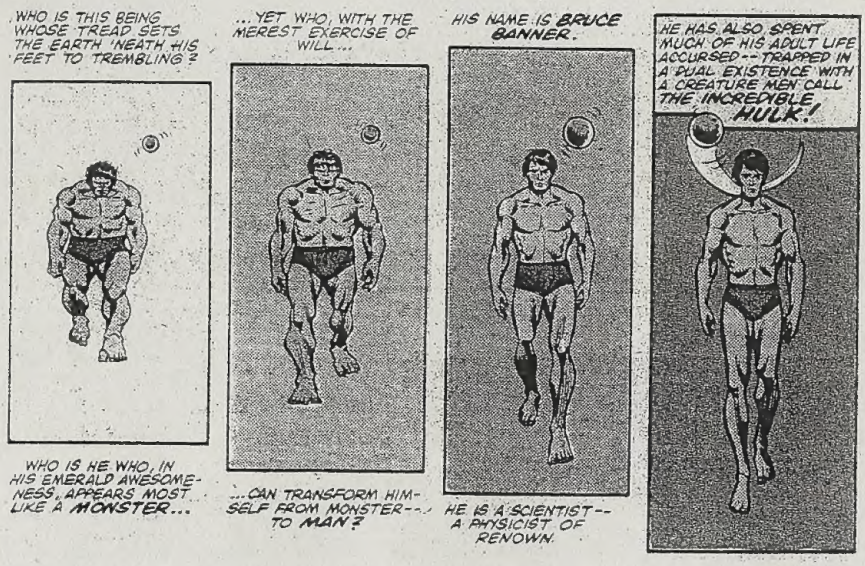
## She's like regular MODOK, but she's a girl! Get it?

Once the saga of Ms. MODOK takes hold of your soul, you're not going to want to stop for bibliography so it is probably a good idea to go ahead and get that out of the way before we start. This business all goes down in The Incredible Hulk, issues 287 through 290 (the last four issues of 1983). The story was by Bill Mantlo, and the art was by Sal Buscema with help from Chic Stone, Jim Mooney, Joe Sinnott, and Carlos Garzon. The covers for all four issues were drawn by Al Milgrom. The cover for issue 288 should probably be on some form of money, so if anybody from the Treasury Department is reading this, you should keep that in mind the next time you guys re-design the twenty.

...AND SOON THE TIME-LOST WARRIOR IS LAID TO REST IN WHAT IS TRULY THE GRAVE OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER...
COME, SPHERE -- LET'S GET BACK TO THE OBSERVATORY.

And here we go. . . our story begins with the death of some dude from some other storyline. Whatever happened to him, it didn't involve MODOK, so it was probably really boring. The Hulk is very sad because this guy is dead. Apparently the guy was from the future or something and the Hulk's power could not save him. Boo hoo. The Hulk, who is also research scientist Bruce Banner, buries Mr. Future Man in some meadow and walks back to his observatory with his floating robot sphere friend.

I don't want to get too bogged down in non-MODOK details, but I guess it would help you to understand that the Hulk and Dr. Banner, at the time of this story, are co-existing rather peacefully in the same body and mind, and Banner can switch from Hulk to non-Hulk with relative ease. Also, he's built himself a floating robot sphere called the "recordasphere" to be his assistant and companion while he pursues his gamma ray research, enjoys "time alone in which [he] might discover who Bruce Banner was," and wears some mighty fetching purple underpants.

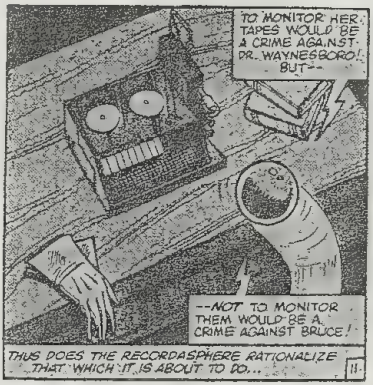

WHO IS THIS BEING WHOSE TREAD SETS THE EARTH 'NEATH HIS FEET TO TREMBLING?
WHO IS HE WHO, IN HIS EMERALD AWESOMENESS, APPEARS MOST LIKE A MONSTER...
...YET WHO, WITH THE MEREST EXERCISE OF WILL...
...CAN TRANSFORM HIMSELF FROM MONSTER--- TO MAN?
HIS NAME IS BRUCE BANNER.
HE IS A SCIENTIST-- A PHYSICIST OF RENOWN.
HE HAS ALSO SPENT MUCH OF HIS ADULT LIFE ACCURSED--TRAPPED IN A DUAL EXISTENCE WITH A CREATURE MEN CALL THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

There's still a heck of a lot of MODOK not being around to get through here, and I wish I could say that it was all necessary set-up for an amazing payoff. It's not. Dr. Banner returns (with his robot sphere) to find that a new research assistant has arrived. Her name is Dr. Katherine Waynesboro. Bruce greets her and then transforms into the Hulk "not to scare you. . . but to prepare you." At this point it's shamelessly obvious that they're totally flirting with each other. Here's the great part, though. Their flirting makes Dr. Banner's floating robot sphere assistant jealous. It would seem that if one had the capabilities necessary to build such a contraption that one could write in some anti-jealousy programming, but I'm not a world-famous gamma ray scientist who can transform into a big green guy who can smash up all kinds of stuff, so who am I to judge?

I'm going to skip all the boring stuff about the six-fingered alien with large breasts and a mohawk who's apparently starring in a hot new movie, because despite what you may think, all that stuff is totally boring. People are mad at her for some reason. Maybe it's the whole alien thing. People can be so cruel. All she wants is to be taken seriously as an artist.

FORGET REALITY! IT DON'T SELL!
WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN A WALKIN' FANTASY LIKE YOU, BIRD-LADY!
I WISH TO BE REGARDED AS A SERIOUS ARTIST... BUT ON BOTH KRYLOR AND EARTH I HAVE BECOME MERELY A PANDERER TO THE PUBLIC TASTE!
8

Bruce spends a couple of pages telling Katherine about the research he does in his gamma research lab, and the recordasphere gets even more angry, so it floats off to do what any of us would do in its situation: snoop around in Dr. Waynesboro's room. By the way, Waynesboro is totally an undercover S.H.I.E.L.D. agent. She's got some weird video recorder on her desk that she uses to communicate with headquarters. The recordasphere becomes convinced that she's spying on Bruce, and decides that it is its job as his sphere to save him from this woman.


TO MONITOR HER TAPES WOULD BE A CRIME AGAINST DR. WAYNESBORO! BUT--
--NOT TO MONITOR THEM WOULD BE A CRIME AGAINST BRUCE!
THUS DOES THE RECORDASPHERE RATIONALIZE THAT WHICH IT IS ABOUT TO DO...
11

Meanwhile, there's this project going on called "Project Earthfall". It's really heavily guarded and very secret. Someone has broken in. I wonder who it could be?

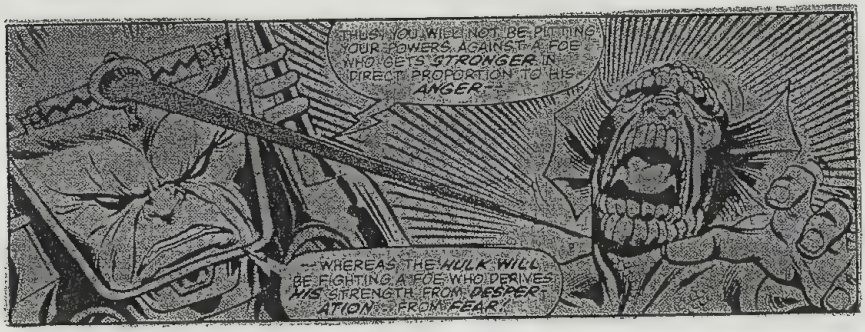
Yeah, it's totally MODOK. He announces that he will not be denied and proceeds to wreck the hell out of the place trying to get to "that which is contained within Project Earthfall". If MODOK wants it that bad, you know it's got to be *awesome*. MODOK evades some lasers, melts some doors, and uses his mind to put some scientists to sleep and then goes about his business of stealing the big hunk of ice that was being guarded by all the people whose asses he just kicked. Somewhere during this, he strikes up a deal with General "Thunderbolt" Ross, because they both want to kill the Hulk. Nobody loves the Hulk. The big hunk of ice had this big green guy named the Abomination inside. He's the Hulk's enemy, and that's how MODOK plans to defeat the Hulk this time. That's supposed to be a surprise, I guess. Surprise!

Issue 288's story is called "Yellow Fever", which utterly baffles me, considering the fact that none of the main characters are actually yellow. MODOK's a kind of yellowish orange, but he's not yellow enough for that "pun" to work. Next time any of you are talking to Bill Mantlo, please ask him what he was thinking when he titled this one. The title page shows Gen. Ross (dressed in *blue*) watching as MODOK (*orange and purple*) melts the ice that the Abomination (*green*) has been trapped in.

Like all super villains, MODOK spends some time detailing his plan, and then Gen. Ross gives us a little background [redacted] about why the Abomination was in that ice in the first place (it's boring…it has something to do with the Hulk and outer space…blah, blah, blah). The Abomination is a total cry-baby. Seriously, if this is the guy MODOK's got his money on to kick the crap out of the Hulk, I sure hope he knows something he's not telling us. Of course you know he does. He's MODOK. He's a genius. MODOK lifts the Abomination out of his prison after he cries about it for a while ("Please don't make me fight the Hulk again! He hurt me so bad!), and then he blasts Gen. Ross with a brain blast. He says it was so nobody would suspect them of working together, but I'm pretty sure MODOK just wanted to blast him. He loves that kind of thing.

If you don't own the series of issues that this story appears in, you really should, because I'm skipping over some really good stuff to get to the MODOK / Ms. MODOK business. I figure I've given you enough of the background for you to understand the framework this story's working in, so we're going to totally burn through the stuff concerning people with heads proportional to their bodies and their floating spherical robot assistants. You'll have to find out for yourself why the Hulk had to go to the dentist. Also, Bruce Banner's floating robot makes him get into a car wreck.

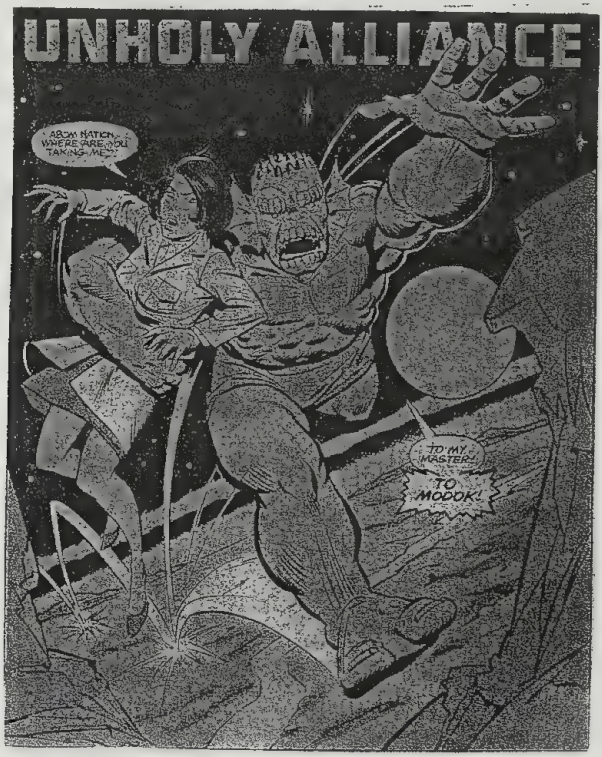
The Abomination wakes up in the center of a spotlight in an otherwise dark room. He's still whining about not wanting to get the crap beat out of him by the Hulk again. MODOK, as always completely doesn't care. He uses his brain to turn on the lights, and the Abomination finds himself in the center of a room that shoots lasers at him and also tries to trap him with robot tentacles and pound him with a giant robot mallet. The Abomination completely destroys the testing room, crying the whole time about how he would really rather not fight the Hulk again. MODOK shoots him in the neck with a brain laser and he starts crying even harder. MODOK sure is mean.


THUS, YOU WILL NOT BE PITTING YOUR POWERS AGAINST A FOE WHO GETS STRONGER IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO HIS ANGER--
--WHEREAS, THE HULK WILL BE FIGHTING A FOE WHO DERIVES HIS STRENGTH FROM DESPERATION--FROM FEAR!

There's a faction of A.I.M. (in blue uniforms) that's no longer under MODOK's control, and while he's busy making giant monsters cry, they attack his base. This makes MODOK mad, so he sends his A.I.M. guys (in the *classic* yellow suits) to fight them. After blowing up a few of the blue guys himself. MODOK decides to leave, so he blasts his way through the roof and flies away. The Abomination also escapes and quickly busies himself by hiding behind some trees and crying. What a loser.

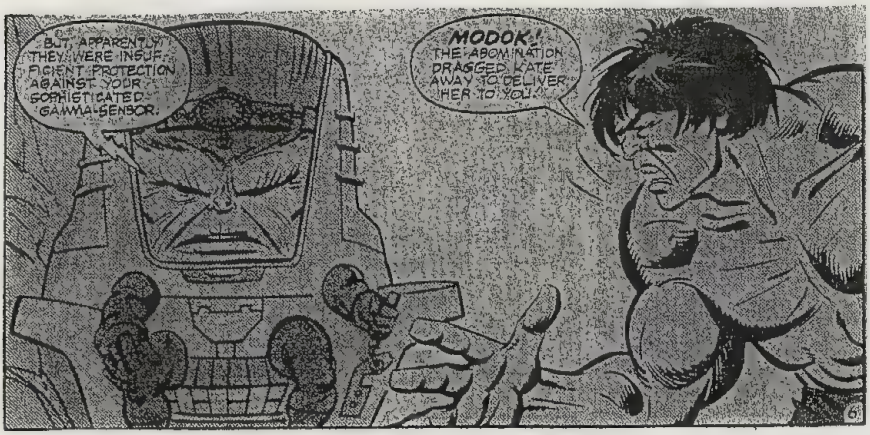
I'll skip the floating robot / Dr. Katherine Waynesboro conflict, but what *is* important is that somewhere in the space of 13 panels, the Abomination decides that he's going to stop crying about things all the time, and just go ahead and fight the Hulk. Apparently, MODOK's tough love worked perfectly. The Abomination breaks into Bruce Banner's gamma radiation lab, and kills his floating robot assistant. Waynesboro blasts the Abomination with a gun that Banner recognizes as being "S.H.I.E.L.D. Issue" and gets pretty mad at her for keeping secrets. He turns into the Hulk and starts fighting the Abomination, who really starts beating the crap out of him because he keeps thinking about MODOK hurting him all the time.

The two monsters fight for a really long time, but the important thing to remember here is that Dr. Katherine Waynesboro gets taken away by the Abomination. The Hulk gets a really big gun, and is about to chase after them when Gen. Ross arrives in a helicopter with his daughter, who is also in love with Bruce Banner, who is also the Hulk. If you can think of a more awkward social situation, I'd certainly like to hear about it. Gen. Ross is upset that the Hulk isn't dead, and Betty is pretty upset by the fact that her dad totally tried to kill this dude she has a crush on. But where did the Abomination take Dr. Waynesboro?

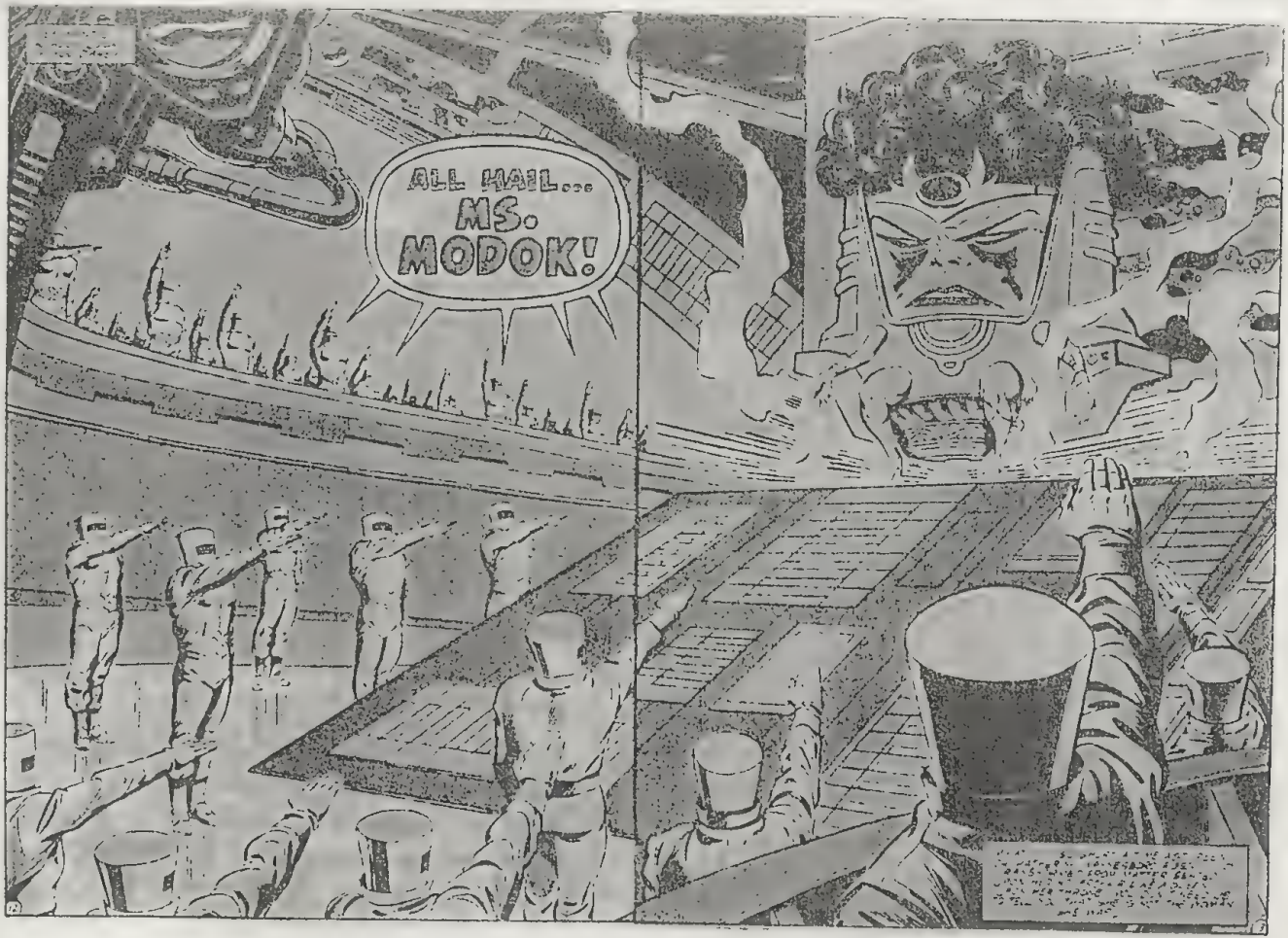


Oh. So *that's* where he's taking her. But when he gets to MODOK's house, the rebellious A.I.M. soldiers are there, and the Abomination starts crying again. This time because he's so happy that MODOK's been overthrown. He gives Katherine to the A.I.M. rebels, and then curls into the fetal position for more crying. How can the rebels possibly fight MODOK? They're just some guys with cool uniforms. They need a MODOK of their own. Good thing they've got this extra Dr. Katherine Waynesboro laying around. You see where *this* is going...

The Hulk is still following the Abominations path, and he lands outside MODOK's former hideout and takes off his huge gun. I guess it was really a fun accessory for Sal Buscema to draw, because he sure as hell never actually shot anything with it. In the hills below the A.I.M. fortress, the Hulk meets MODOK, who shoots him in the head with a brain laser, which somehow causes him to be able to see what's happening to Dr. Waynesboro. He doesn't seem too pleased that she's going to get to be another MODOK. MODOK doesn't either, because he's gotten pretty used to being the only MODOK there is. So MODOK and the Hulk team up and break in to the fortress.


BUT APPARENTLY THEY WERE INSUFFICIENT PROTECTION AGAINST YOUR SOPHISTICATED GAMMA-SENSOR.
MODOK! THE ABOMINATION DRAGGED KATE AWAY TO DELIVER HER TO YOU!
6

There's a few panels of punching and lasers, which is okay, if that's the kind of thing you're into (which I hope you are). MODOK finds the Abomination still curled up and crying in the corner, so he shoots him with brain lasers some more. While he's doing this, though, he detects "the most...*intriguing*...thought-patterns from within the alteration chamber.


ALL HAIL...
MS. MODOK!

OH MY GOD! There's the payoff to all the lasers and floating robots and dental visits and dead men from the future and alien movie stars and over-emotional monsters who were frozen in space but now just cry all the time. MODOK and Ms. MODOK see each other and it's totally and completely love at first sight. It's the greatest love story of the 20th century, really, and we're all better people for having experienced it. The two MODOKs team up and just start blasting *everything*. Then they start totally getting it on by shooting special make-out beams out of their brains at each other.

AS THE HULK STANDS STUNNED TWO INCREDIBLE INTELLECTS TURN WITH THE MAGE ANCHANGS AROUND THEM...
...AND REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER WITH BEAMS OF PUREST THOUGHT.
YES! WE ARE THE SAME!
WE ARE ONE!
THAT'S NOT KATE TALKING! IT CAN'T BE!
'CCURSE IT AIN'T DIDN'T YOU HEAR? YOUR LADY'S GONE!
AN' IN HER PLACE, WE GOT THAT THING! TWO TERRORS INSTEAD OF ONE! MODOK ...AND HIS MATE!
MATE?
NO, NO! NO!
THE HULK'S SCREAM REVERBERATES LIKE THUNDER.

After all this "two become one" business, they decide to do what all newlyweds want to do on their wedding night: destroy the Hulk. First, though, they warm it up by shooting brain lasers at the Abomination to both teach him a lesson and also show the Hulk what's in store for him. The bad thing here is that the MODOK family decide that now would be a good time to have their first fight. See, MODOK wants to kill the Abomination, but Ms. MODOK thinks he should live. Oh, those newlyweds! So they start shooting lasers at each other, and the Hulk takes this opportunity to butt in where he wasn't invited ant totally sucker-punch MODOK. He beats the crap out of the building, but MODOK escapes into the night.

It was a pretty cheap victory, really. And while he's getting away, some beam of light comes down and totally turns Ms. MODOK back to Katherine Waynesboro. Personally, I liked her better the other way. The Hulk theorizes that MODOK's love for Ms. MODOK is what kept him from completely destroying her. Is there a side to MODOK that we haven't seen? Is he in some cave right now writing poetry to Ms. MODOK and posting it on his internet diary? No, he's probably just planning another way to kill a bunch of people. MODOK is nothing if not focused.

THE MORNING AFTER
BY: KLON WALDRIP
BUHH..? STILL DRUNK!
WHAT'S ALL DIS SHIT?
THAT'S A REALLY ODD PAIR OF PANTIES... SAY... JUST WHERE THE HELL AM I?
THIS AIN'T MY APARTMENT. BUT SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD.
IS THAT YOU LOVER?
LOVER?
OH... MY... GOD.
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR EGGS STUD?
FIN

# MODOK In Japan

## A Special Report by "Lefty Vacationland"

Japanese prison cells are very clean. Not like the Yankee lockups where I mis-spent most of my youth, bounced from one juvie to another for offenses ranging from joyriding to selling the Mayor's daughter a dime bag of primo Tenochichtlan. So when I found myself in possession of a ONE-WAY FIRST-CLASS TICKET TO London (the result of a few minute's work in the cloakroom of a well-known New York disco), I didn't look back. I was barely through customs at Heathrow before I had talked my way into a job as "assistant assistant" to a big name rock star who's name I will not mention here. Anyway, when Big-Name Rock Star went on another world tour, there I was, supplying pharmaceuticals to groupies, roadies, junkies and Living Legends. And, of course, when Big-Name Rock Star got busted in Japan, there I was, right alongside him in a courtroom where nobody spoke my language and things were definitely not going my way.

There isn't any toilet paper in Japanese prison. Well, that's not true. There is paper in the john, even though the john is just a hole in the floor you squat over. However, the shitpaper isn't white, fluffy Charmin – it's rough, it could be pink, brown or blue, and it's got comic book people all over it. Yeah, in Japan, jailbirds use comic books to wipe their asses.

So, being in jail and not speaking or reading Japanese, I was naturally attracted to any diversion that involved pictures, and I got to be a pretty big fan of some of those Japanese comics. Lemme tell you, those things are crazy. Insane machine-gun toting schoolgirls, lots of fucking, people's heads getting cut off, intestines flying – sure, not all the comics were outrageous, but the ones that were didn't pull any punches. A lot of them were just weird, and the weirdest of them all starred MODOKKU.

MODOKKU was a giant floating head with little arms and legs. Just a big freakish lump of ugly, flying through the air, screaming, wiggling his little limbs all over the place, a bizarre concept that only the Japanese would turn into one of their greatest national treasures.

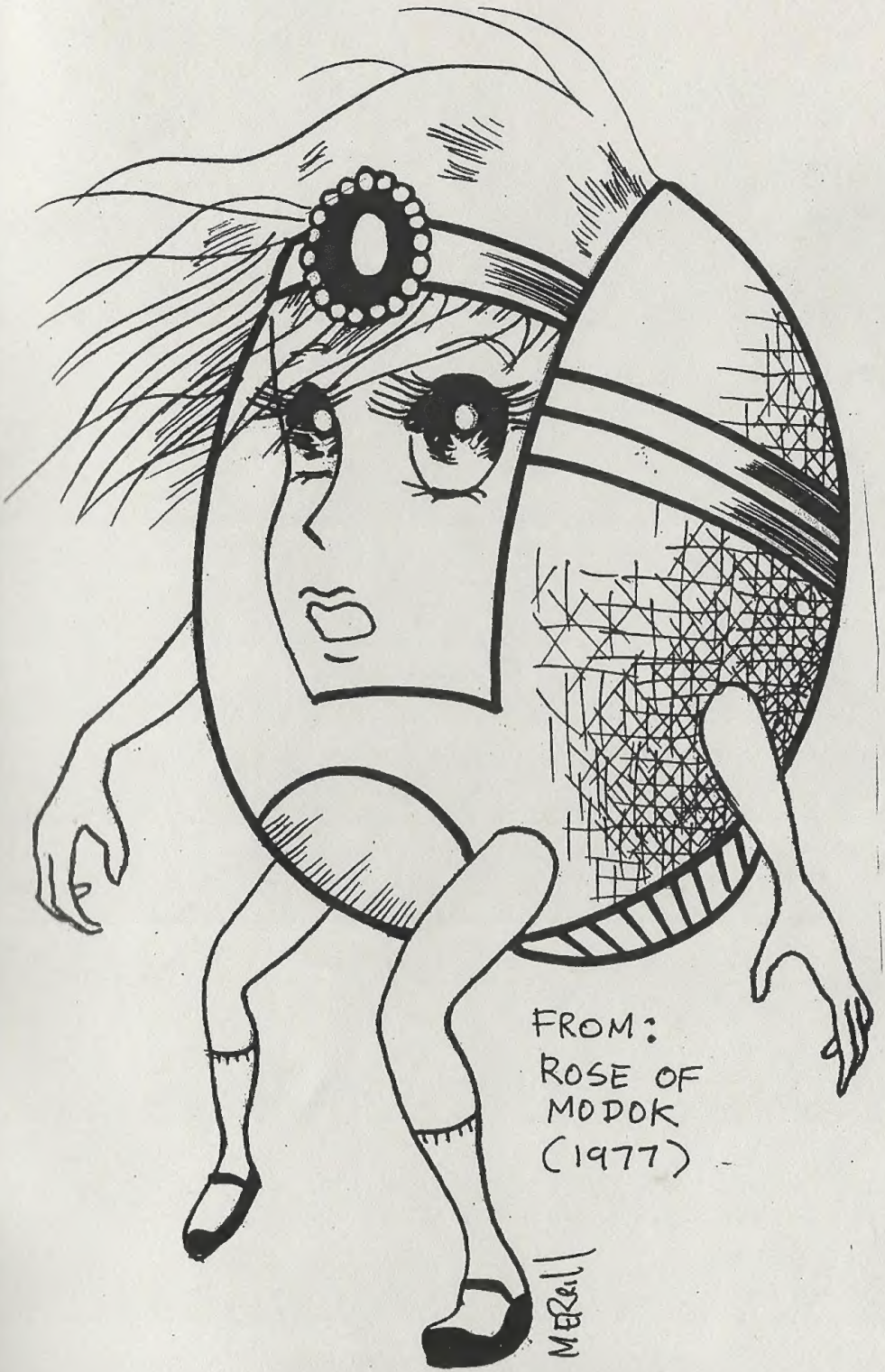
The first place I saw MODOKKU was in some stupid giant-robot comic book, where the hero is some high school kid who gets a giant robot and instead of killing his parents and his principal with it, he fights evil. Anyway, MODOKKU was one of the evil robots that our hero had to fight, and it was one of those deals where the villain turns out to be at least halfway a good guy and everybody feels sad at the end when he dies. It turns out that MODOKKU had been appearing in other comic strips before that one. In the 1960's, MODOKKU had shown up as the bad guy in some kiddy space robot strip called "Atom Boy" or some such crap, and he'd been such a hit that the writers or the publishing company or somebody had decided to use the big ugly head everywhere. What I saw in the shitter of the Japanese prison was just the tip of the MODOKKU iceberg. MODOKKU showed up in comic books about golf, about teenagers, about alcoholism, about scientists, and about secret agents. They had toys of MODOKKU, books, gum cards, you name it. For a while, MODOKKU was king, and then the Japanese apparently moved on to another fad, and MODOKKU got dumped in the trash heap along with the rest of the comic heroes, destined for the asses of Japanese criminals.

When I got deported, I never thought I would miss Japan, but something about that country and its crazy, crazy comics always stuck with me. When I think back about the comics of Japan, one thing looms large above everything else: MODOKKU.

I don't have any of the original comic pages where I first saw MODOKKU (believe me, you wouldn't want them either, after what happened to them), so I've had to represent MODOKKU as best I could from my memory and from what information I could get out of my fellow prisoners. I know a lot of Japanese comics are coming out in America, but I haven't seen MODOKKU yet. Maybe this article will convince somebody to start importing MODOKKU. Believe me, if the depressed, punk-ass criminal I once was can get into MODOKKU, then *everybody* can.

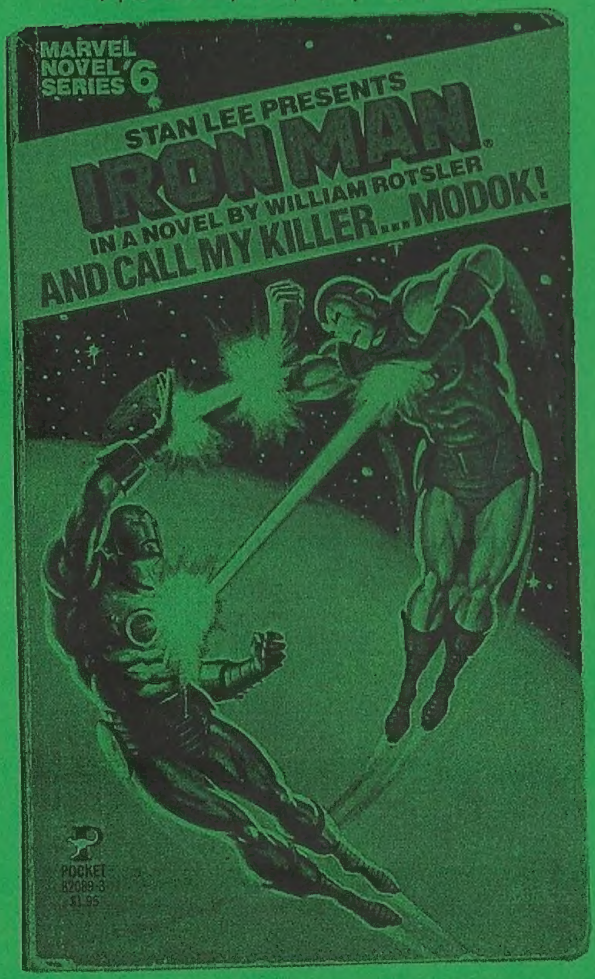
FROM:
TETSUJIN
MODOKKON
29-60
(1964)
MERRI

FROM:
MODOKOJIN
ROBO-X
(1973)
MERRITT


FROM:
ROSE OF
MODOK
(1977)
MERRILL

ARE YOU REELIN' IN THE YEEEARS?
Blowin' AWAY YOUR TIITME?
DEAN
2004

## COMING NEXT ISSUE:

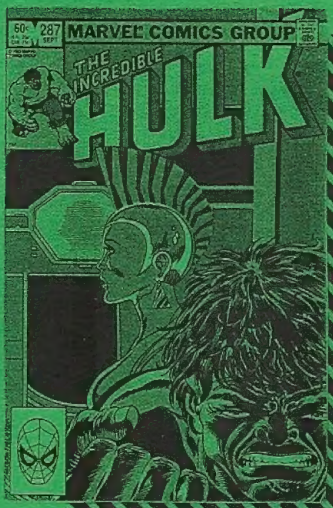



All you really need to know about MODOK's literary debut!

More MODOK rip-offs!

Lost MODOK artwork from the *Journal*'s vaults!

Maybe some more stuff about MODOK!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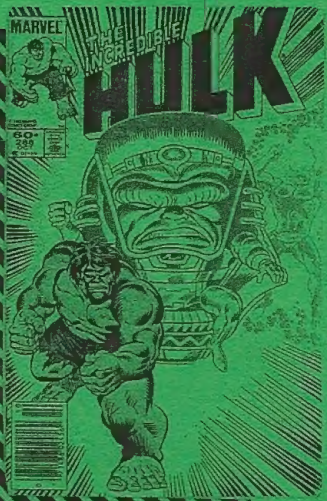
287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289

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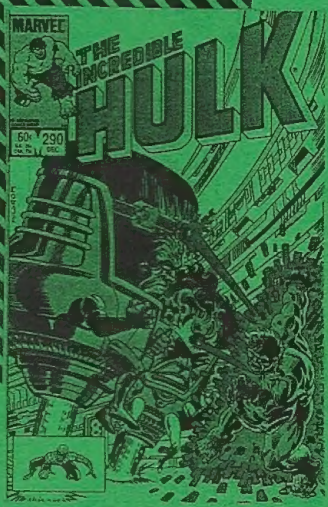
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290

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